

care is needed; and developing educational materials for parents, teachers, and health care practitioners that will increase recognition of the signs of visual impairment in children. The Vision Care for Kids Act will serve as an incentive to States to provide eye care to those youngsters who are in need of treatment and are currently unable to access care.

This year, we are working on the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). SCHIP was created to provide health care to millions of children who were previously uninsured. Over the last ten years, we have seen the positive impact of this essential program. Passage of the Vision Care for Kids Act will be a key component of ensuring that we have a comprehensive children's health care delivery system in this country. I look forward to working with Senator BOND and my colleagues to see that this legislation is not only passed by this body soon, but that it is signed into law.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1118. A bill to improve the energy security of the United States by raising average fuel economy standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by Senator CRAIG to introduce legislation called the Fuel Efficiency Act of 2007. This legislation is an important component of broader legislation that my colleague and I recently introduced on March 14, 2007. That legislation is a balanced plan with the overall goal to improve the energy security of the U.S. through a 50 percent reduction in the oil intensity of the economy by 2030.

This is important to me because the United States remains dangerously dependent on foreign sources of oil. Today we import over 60 percent of our oil from Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and other unstable nations of the world. This is very troubling to me.

Our larger proposal is grounded in four cornerstone principles. The first principle is achievable, stepped increases in fuel efficiency of the transportation fleet. The second principle promotes increased availability of alternative fuel sources and infrastructure. The third principle calls for expanded production and enhanced exploration of domestic and other secure oil and natural gas resources. Finally, the fourth principle improves the management of alliances to better secure global energy supplies.

In the United States, we use about 67 percent of our oil to power our vehicles. This is the area where we are least secure and increasingly dependent. For these reasons and more, we introduced S. 875 as a bi-partisan, balanced approach to securing our future energy through reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

I am also a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee which has jurisdiction over the fuel economy standards of our Nation's vehicle fleet. I look forward to working with Chairman INOUE, Ranking Member STEVENS, and other members of the committee who are interested in enacting strong, fair, and forward-looking fuel economy standards.

It should be noted that this is the first time that both Senator CRAIG and I have publicly stated our support for increased fuel economy standards beyond the incremental steps that the current administration has made to date. Our Nation's fuel economy standards have not significantly changed since the mid-1980s. We now have lower passenger vehicle fuel efficiency standards than Japan, the European Union, Australia, Canada, and yes, even China.

The bill we have introduced today reforms and strengthens fuel efficiency standards by establishing an annual 4 percent increase in the fuel economy of the entire new vehicle fleet, including automobiles, medium trucks, and heavy trucks from 2012-2030. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will have discretion to invoke "off-ramps" if it is determined that the increase is not technologically achievable, creates material safety concerns, or is not cost effective.

Senator CRAIG and I came together to develop a new pathway forward because we believe that bolder energy security measures must be taken now to address our long-term security, economic growth and environmental protection. There is no silver bullet to solving our energy dependence. Digging and drilling is a strategy I call yesterday forever. Conservation alone is not the answer. Renewable fuels hold promise, but we need to do much more here. We believe the combination of steps sets the right pathway to U.S. energy security, and we look forward to moving increased fuel economy standards through the Senate Commerce Committee.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 149—EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WEBB, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN,

Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 149

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) offers its heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families, and to students, faculty, administration and staff and their families who have been deeply affected by the tragic events that occurred today at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia;

(2) expresses its hope that today's losses will lead to a shared national commitment to take steps that will help our communities prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future; and

(3) recognizes that Virginia Tech has served as an exemplary institution of teaching, learning, and research for well over a century; and that the University's historic and proud traditions will carry on.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 843. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 372, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

SA 844. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 845. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 846. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 847. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 843 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BOND) to the bill S. 372, supra.

SA 848. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 849. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 372, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 850. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the